

Introduction

"The farmer is the most independent man on earth. He is in partnership with nature, and with her assistance produces what all the world must have—food. There is a never-ending demand for his product. Agriculture holds forth to the young man the promise of independence, comfort, peace, and full enjoyment of life."

"Back to the Land" is the cry heard from the densely populated centres of the world. The last generation developed our great industries and most of the enormous fortunes gained in financial and commercial pursuits. In the meanwhile, agriculture made strides of a kind. But the urban population increased in greater ratio than the rural population, until the world had unemployed problems, housing problems and many others, indicating unhealthy economic conditions.

Now the city man joins the farmer in the "Back to the Land" call. Our social system is out of balance. The congestion of cities must be relieved and the surplus population diverted to the farm.

Rural life is becoming more and more convenient and attractive and, what is quite as important, more profitable, and there can be no doubt that a reaction has set in and that the tendency in the future will be towards the healthier and more independent country life. "God made the country and man made the city." It is the natural destiny of humanity gradually to drift back to the soil and to those surroundings most favorable for the creation of happy, prosperous homes, where children can be raised and educated amidst the elevating influences of nature, healthy in body and mind.

The Canadian Pacific Railway invites all those who are looking for farm homes to investigate the various openings available along its lines in Western Canada. The immediate purpose of this publication is to bring to the attention of those interested the exceptional opportunity now offered in this direction within the "Irrigation Block," located in Southern Alberta, Canada, which is at present being colonized by that company.

The Land Hunger.

AQUIREMENT has been the ambition of all peoples and all nations since the beginning of time. When the world was large and the people few, and confined by no divisional lines of latitude and longitude, acquirement was along the line of simple personal effects that might be transported from place to place in the nomadic wanderings of their possessors. Gradually, as there came into the minds of those early wanderers a desire for a fixed habitation—a home—acquirement took on a new significance and lands in time became a large part of their possessions. As from these small bands nations sprang up and grew, the standard of values gradually shifted from personal to real property, the acquirement of which, from that day to this, has been the ambition of all nations and of their individual units.

Whether or not one be in search of new lands or a new home one cannot but be interested in a subject that deals largely in a "World-Ambition." This folder contains facts pertaining to a country—Western Canada, and Southern Alberta in particular—where the private individual has a last opportunity for the acquirement, at a nominal cost, of that which has been for ages the goal of nearly all human endeavor; facts that should be the property of all those who are interested in the world's doings of today.

Southern Alberta.

None but those who have lived in a new country can realize what is really taking place at this time in the way of settlement in Southern Alberta. There has been nothing in the world to equal it. Immigration to the United States was considered phenomenal, but it started very slowly and it took years for the immigration figures of Canada to jump from 5,000 to 200,000 a year. In the settlement of the United States there was the Eastern Hemisphere to draw from. Canada has that and the United States, too, from which to draw, and this means a much more rapid settlement here than the latter ever knew.

With the extermination of the buffalo, the country was claimed by the rancher with his cattle that fed and fattened for market in this great pasture. Like the buffalo and the Indian, the rancher has had his day, and the farmer with his plow and reaper has come to his own, and he is going to hold it. Where in the past, buffalo and cattle ranged throughout the entire year, today the valley is dotted with happy homes, surrounded by rich acres that are advancing in value yearly.

Bow Valley Reservation Open for Settlement.

In the year 1894, the Dominion Government withdrew from sale and homestead entry a tract of land containing some millions of acres located east of the City of Calgary, along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The object of this reservation was to provide for the construction, ultimately, of an irrigation system to cover the fertile Bow River Valley. It was realized that such a project could only be successfully accomplished by so administering the lands embraced within the tract in question, that the promoters